

App. No.: 10/613,911
Atty. Doc. No.: D03041

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing a secure time signal from a time source to a time requestor over a digital network, the method comprising:

 sending a requestor identification to an authentication server; and

receiving a public key from the authentication server;

sending a request for a time server ticket;

receiving the request for the time server ticket;

 using ~~an information object~~ time server ticket to request the secure time signal

wherein the ~~information object~~ time server ticket includes an identification of the requestor and a session key for transferring the secure time signal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from a key distribution center.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from an authentication server.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from a ticket granting-server.

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6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising:

~~Associating a request for a secure time signal with the ticket;~~

transferring the time server ticket with ~~the a request for a secure time signal~~ to a secure time server; and

receiving a the secure time signal from the secure time server.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the request includes a request message, the method further comprising:

generating a nonce to be included in the request message;

including a ~~service ticket~~ session key for the secure time server in the request message; and

including a keyed checksum over the request message.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 7, wherein the secure time signal includes a reply message, the method further comprising

~~including a secure time signal;~~

including a the nonce copied from the ~~client~~ request in the reply message; and

including a keyed checksum over the reply message.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 8, wherein the step of receiving a secure time signal includes the following substeps:

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matching a the nonce in the ~~received~~ reply message with the corresponding nonce
in the ~~sent~~ request message; and
confirming a the keyed checksum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising
Using the secure time signal to update a clock value.

11-13. (Cancelled)